

Approved January 21, 2006 at Doubletree
Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale,
Arizona. Motion by Jim Jett, second by
Ron Bemis, approved as presented by
unanimous vote.

Heritage Fund Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2005
Grand Canyon Cavern Inn
Peach springs, Arizona

Committee Members:

Bob Hernbrode, Tucson (Chairman) - Present
Paul Gomben, Show Low – Present
Ron Smith, Pinetop-Lakeside - Absent
Clair Harris, Flagstaff - Absent
Maggie Sacher, Marble Canyon - Present
Jim Jett, Kingman – Present
Randy Lamb, Prescott - Present
Nick Heatwole, Yuma - Present

Valerie Morrill, Yuma - Present
Ron Bemis, McNeal – Present
Dennis Ward, Willcox - Absent
Tony Nelssen, Scottsdale - Present
Jerry Nelson, Scottsdale - Present
Diane Drobka, Safford - Absent
Brian Pinney, Chandler - Present
Margaret Bohannon, Scottsdale - Present

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1. **Call to Order and Opening Remarks:** Commissioner Bob Hernbrode, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
 2. **Introductions**
 - a. **Committee Members:** Chairman Hernbrode asked Committee members to introduce themselves.
 - b. **Department Representatives:** Deputy Director Steve Ferrell, Heritage Fund Administrator Ashley Ross, and other present department staff introduced themselves.
 3. **Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2005:** Upon motion by Brian Pinney and seconded by Jim Jett, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Call to the Public: No members of the public requested to be heard.

4. **Presenters:** Tony Guiles, Legislative Liaison provided the committee an update of current legislation and presented the vision of the Department on how HPAC could advocate for Heritage Fund, supported by a handout and new Heritage Fund (HF) brochures. Mr. Guiles gave a brief history of the Heritage Fund, the 33 attempts to raid the Fund, and the one successful raid in 2002. Tony provided HPAC members with recommendations about how HPAC members could support the continued existence of the HF including finding out local Representative support of HF; and attending and broadcasting to local leaders the benefits of the Heritage Fund to their districts through check presenting ceremonies and other ceremonies. Tony also emphasized that as an election year, it is particularly important that Representatives are educated about the benefits of HF and that contact is made by members of the public. Mr. Guiles warned of hidden agendas that may attempt to change the Lottery structure as well as a referendum to protect HF from further Legislative attempts.

The Committee comment and discussion focused on coordinating with the Heritage Alliance; continuing grassroots efforts to protect HF; reviewing report card recommendations to outline and grade legislative support; and whether HPAC members were getting email updates of big check presentations in their districts. Mr. Guiles urged everyone to not become complacent about the

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continued support of the Heritage Fund by the Governor. Mr. Guiles will send out information regarding Heritage funded projects within each district. Commissioner Hernbrode recommended that Department staff provide a spreadsheet of all HF projects to all HPAC members.

5. **Presenter:** Ron Sieg, Region II Manager provided a report on the Condor Project. There was a brief review of the history, failures, success and future outlook for the Condor Project. The main focus of discussion was about lead issues within the Condor Project and a new nationwide program to engage hunters and ranchers in taking voluntary actions to limit the lead exposure potential for condors. There is also a program this year in Arizona to distribute non-lead shot to hunters within the primary condor project range. Ron mentioned that the biggest challenge faced in the recovery of condors is lead poisoning. In addition to direct mortalities, there is concern over long-term exposure and treatment impacts on fertility rates and mental capacity. GPS tracking greatly simplified the process of caring for and finding birds. AGFD contracted with the University of Arizona to study where the lead from impacted condors had come from in order to define whether the lead came from spent ammunition from hunting or from natural sources. Mr. Sieg suggested www.condorinfo.org to gain more background, ballistics and other condor topic information. He mentioned a paper expected out this year regarding the lead in animal carcasses and gut piles and impact to condors. The Heritage Fund spent \$125,000 to fund the 2005 Arizona voluntary non-lead ammunition program, with coupon offers for free non-lead ammunition for 23,903 hunters, along with condor information. An additional 4,000 letters will be mailed to hunters in peripheral ranges asking them to take voluntary action to limit condor exposure to lead. Over 1,300 individuals have used the coupons and more may be expected. Arizona Game and Fish Department will be surveying these individuals to determine if they used or did not use the program and why, as well as how they felt about it to assess how to tailor the program can be tailored to involve more participants.

Committee comment and discussion focused on HF Grant purchase of new x-ray equipment at the Vermilion Cliffs; the effect of lead on Condors; the ability to identify whether lead can be traced to hunters; methods to detect and treat lead; as well as ballistics and costs associated with using non-lead alternatives.

6. **Presenter:** Nancy Renison, Biologist with the Bat Project gave a presentation on the Bats of Arizona Project. Nancy provided a brief review of the diversity and benefits gained from bats. The Arizona Bat Project has experienced many firsts in the nation. Several major firsts include being the first to create a State Wildlife Bat Program from Heritage Funding (1990) and the first state to finalize a bat conservation strategic plan (2003). Since implementation of the strategic plan, Heritage grants have funded nearly half a million dollars for bat conservation activities including telemetry studies; bat habitat protection; mine gating projects; Arizona bat call library studies; development of a bats and mines handbook; and many more. The latest project is the BATS central database, which holds electronic data from each region. Within a year or two the database will be available on the intranet and then migrates to an Internet site, which will help researchers across the United States. Outreach consumed a great deal of the 2 full time employees' hours. A new project is planned that will train retired educators and trainers to present a curriculum-based program on bats. Ms. Renison discussed how some urban bat populations may have increased due to human

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developments like tunnels, culverts, faunal plantings, golf courses, lakes, pools and other human introductions.

Committee comment and discussion included questions regarding the largest roost sites (and sizes) in Arizona; gate construct and design; bats as indicator species; and long term monitoring and volunteer stewards. Discussion focused on the design and use of cattle and wildlife waterers. The Committee expressed that more 'bat-friendly' troughs should be employed, as many bats are drowned by old designs. The Committee suggested that Department staff ensure Department installed watering troughs be safe for bat use. In addition, the Committee suggested that Department Habitat Staff design wildlife water developments. HPAC asked about how the Department is working with developers to create bat friendly golf courses and housing projects.

7. **Presenter:** Ashley Ross, Heritage Fund Administrator provided the committee an overview of the Heritage Fund Grant workshops and the Grant Prioritization Scoring Committee. A brief history of the Heritage Grant Program and the guiding principles behind a good grant application was given. Ashley mentioned that grant workshops were held to allow prospective applicants to meet with the staff who can answer specific questions and review the grant process. A brief overview of the workshop process was covered. Grant application results for 2005 included 34 applications received totaling \$1,522,523. Total dollars available for all subprograms was \$756,000. From the 34 applications the Department received, 16 were awarded for total Heritage Fund dollars awarded of \$342,160. and total Project dollars (includes match/donation) of \$827,940. A brief review of the grant scoring process discussed the roles of Executive Staff, Department staff and the scoring committee.

Committee comment and discussion centered on expanding grant program advertising; concern over why grant funds were not completely expended; discussion over why more applicants were not awarded funding and how to help create more quality grant applications. There were questions about the role of the Heritage staff and suggestions for how Heritage staff could engage more school districts in applying for grants. The Committee discussed reevaluating grant workshop timelines to be more teacher friendly or to do school and city presentations separately. Committee members stated they would like to brainstorm ways to improve grant outreach. One method considered training volunteers in the regions to do workshop presentations. Another suggestion was to speak to the state school board about a presentation at the mandatory teachers meeting in Phoenix where the Department could reach rural teachers more effectively. The Committee questioned if the workshop dates were placed on Outdoor Arizona website/e-zine. The Chairman suggested revisiting the topic as an agenda item. Committee members mentioned they would like to spend more of the meeting on business than on educational presentations.

8. Open Committee discussion

- a. **Future Meetings.** The Chairman and Committee acknowledged that the next meeting would be in January before the Meet the Commission meeting. Notice of dates and times will be forthcoming.

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b. Open Committee Discussion. The Chairman opened discussion.

- Committee members were concerned about why individuals may not be applying for grants: the process, the amounts offered or the requirement that the last 10% of funding be withheld until project completion. The Committee questioned if the Department would look at other grant programs and their application processes to simplify the process. Department Staff mentioned that it would be more detrimental to the program to have a 'bad grant' approved and brought into the media light, than it was to have fewer grants given.
- Committee members mentioned they had not been informed of the Heritage Fund Administrator transition and would like better notification of any major personnel changes.
- HPAC members requested more upfront discussion and more technical information before the meeting. The Committee suggested HF staff send out an executive summary before the meeting so they could come prepared with questions. Members also expressed that they would like more budget and detailed funding information.
- HPAC members requested more detailed minutes. Department Staff stated that members had not wanted the detailed minutes of 2 years ago that were tape recorded and then transcribed. Over the past year the minutes were transformed into the brief minutes presented. The Committee stated they would appreciate more detail about the meat of the discussion with less review of presentations in the minutes.
- Committee members agreed that they appreciated the opportunity for socialization before the meeting. However, in the business section, would like updates of project statuses in areas such as: Land Acquisition (with comparison to other state's programs), Access issues, Heritage Fund Grant updates, among other topics.

c. Future Agenda Items. The Chairman stated that the Department would consider future agenda items based on discussion during the course of the meeting. Other agenda topics will be raised at the January HPAC meeting.

9. Adjournment: Committee adjourned at 1:00 pm.